

Gator Gazette

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND → 917th WING, BARKSDALE AFB, LA → OCTOBER 1999

917th team wins Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award

By Mrs. Belinda Bazinet
Wing Public Affairs

The 917th Logistic Group Self Inspection Tracking System team was presented the 1999 Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award at ceremonies on September 14th. The award was one of the five top awards given among 21 teams competing throughout the Air Force.

Led by Tech. Sgts. Rob Ahbol and Charles W. Shaw, the team of John Webster, Lt. Col. John Douglas, Chief Master Sgts. Thomas Balcerzak and Larry Sheppelman, pooled their talents and designed the only user friendly, simple, paperless, exportable and completely automated self-inspection tracking system (SITS) in the Air Force Reserve.

A natural working group was formed to establish the program as it is today. It was decided that the team would consist of personnel with prior self-inspection experience and knowledge of working with databases.

After checking through the unit to see if anyone had experience designing databases, Webster enlisted the aid of Ahbol.

"I had taken some (Microsoft) Access classes on base, and I had a vision of a tracking system that would allow the commander to find areas of concern in the unit within minutes," Ahbol said.

"Over the years, the how-to's of self-inspections had been lost," said Shaw, the present LG self-inspection program monitor. "Because of this loss, we started from scratch re-inventing much of the old self-inspection program concepts while building an automated shell around them."

Ahbol designed an automated tracking program "within about a week," then presented the program to the team. After team discussion, and testing the program, we added several functions, had training sessions, presented the program to the LG commander and went on-line in June, he said.



PHOTOS BY MRS. BELINDA BAZINET
Tech. Sgts. Rob Ahbol, site designer and Wade Shaw, team chief, experience the thrill of victory after receiving the Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award from Gen. Michael E. Ryan in Washington D.C.

throughout the Air Force, the program is now spreading to other Department of Defense organizations.

"The 917th has an excellent program that not only increases their mission effectiveness, but it is also available to other units," Brig. Gen. Lawrence Sheehan, senior CSTE judge, said. "I, as well as the other four judges, were certainly impressed with the team effort."

The team was also one of two teams selected to represent the Air Force for the Secretary of Defense Team Excellence Award which recognizes outstanding team performance and shares best practices within the DoD.

Other 917th organizations got enthused and decided to adopt the tracking system database, Webster said. "Placing the program on the Intranet gave Colonel Ihle (917th Wing commander), group and squadron commanders look-down capability. It also made it a one-stop shopping center for all their self-inspection needs."

"The commander now has the program at his fingertips," Shaw said. "With the old system, you had to fill out forms and send them up the chain. It might have been weeks before a problem got attention."

After two very successful SITS workshops attended by more than 61 units from



Mr. Bob Fortune shines the Team Excellence Award while Chief Master Sgt. Larry Sheppelman hold it with pride.

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One of the most rewarding aspects of my job is to watch our folks accomplish great things. I certainly was not disappointed on my recent trip to Washington D.C., to observe our Self-Inspection Tracking System team's participation in the Air Force Chief-of-Staff Team Excellence Award competition. Twenty-one teams from around the world, representing all Air Force major commands, presented their team efforts and accomplishments to a panel of five general officers. Emphasis was on how they

"One of my proudest moments since assuming command of the 917th was when Air Force Chief of Staff, General Ryan, presented the top trophy to our team."

functioned as a team and how their effort will benefit the entire Air Force.

When the dust had settled, the 917th team had again demonstrated the true professionalism and quality of our members and the importance of the Air Force Reserve to the "total force."



Col. Jack C. Ihle

One of my proudest moments since assuming command of the 917th was when Air Force Chief of Staff, General Ryan, presented the top trophy to our team.

Although these individuals put in a lot of hard work and did a fantastic job, their accomplishments would not have been possible without the support of many other 917th members contributing behind the scenes. I salute you all for being the best of the best. Our team will now go on to represent the Air Force in the Department of Defense competition later this year. I am sure that will be another "piece of cake" win!

Chaplain's Corner: See you at the pole

**By Chaplain (Maj.)
Bill Willis, Sr.**

See You At The Pole is an annual gathering of students throughout our nation and even around the world. This year it was held on Wednesday, September 15th. Students met at the flagpoles at their schools to pray for their schools, teachers, parents, fellow students, communities and nation.

In this day of school shootings and other violence on campus, it seems timely that students should ask God for divine blessings. It also seems most appropriate that they should pray at the flagpole on their school

campus. Our United States flag is a symbol of the freedom we have to practice our religious faith.

The free exercise of our religious faith is one of the freedoms that uniformed personnel in all generations have been willing to defend. Even within the military your right to exercise your faith is protected by Air Force instructions and policy directives.

As we proudly serve our country through the Air Force Reserve, defending all citizens right to free expression of religious faith, may we also take time to exercise our own faith as well.



In brief

Supplies available for pickup

These items were back-ordered by reservists over the last 120 days and need to be picked up as soon as possible. Listed below are the first five letters of the person's name and the items awaiting pickup:

Brigh	BDU jacket
Flore	Ear defenders
Johns	Ear defenders
Johns	Liner, gortex
King	BDU jacket liner
Parka	Headset
Reser	Coveralls
Stoke	Liner, gortex

Personnel news update

Unit assigned members who are no longer participating will incur a debt for SGLI for each month until they are reassigned to the Air Reserve Personnel Center. As long as an individual is unit assigned, they are covered by SGLI if they have not declined the insurance. Members may want to take this action when they stop participating and reassignment is delayed for some time.

If you answer "yes" or "I don't know" to any of the following questions you need to see your first sergeant about family care today.

-Are you a single parent?

-Are you military married to military and have children living with you?

-Do you have a civilian spouse who could not take care of themselves and/or the children if you were called to serve your country?

Training classes available

The 917th Training Office has received dates for fiscal year 2000 training classes. Interested personnel should

contact their supervisors if interested in enrolling in these classes.

The next NCO LDP class is scheduled for Oct. 27-30 and Nov 3-7.

The 917th is allowed one NCO Academy quota for each class scheduled in fiscal year 2000. The academy classes are located at Keesler AFB, Miss. and Maxwell AFB, Ala.

Keesler AFB (1 quota per class):

8 Nov. - 16 Dec. 99

4 Jan. - 11 Feb. 00

22 Feb - 29 Mar. 00

4 Apr. - 10 May 00

23 May - 29 Jun. 00

31 July - 7 Sept. 00

Maxwell AFB (2 quotas available):

6 Sept. - 18 Oct. 00

For more information contact Master Sgt. Pat Roberson at 456-8066.

Recruiters needed

If you are interested in becoming a recruiter or know someone who is interested in joining the Air Force Reserve contact your nearest recruiter.

Barksdale AFB, La. - 318-456-9145

Mesquite, Texas - 972-681-6384

Tyler, Texas - 903-543-8618

Monroe, La. - 318-323-1898

Or send an e-mail to Jon.Brasher
@barksdale.af.mil for more information.

Combined Federal Campaign
kicks off in October

The Combined Federal Campaign begins October 11 and runs through November.

As in the past, we will strive to contribute to the 100 percent level and give back to the community what it so willingly provides for us in our times of need.

Tech. Sgt. Mike Schroader will spearhead this year's campaign and will

be visiting each of the shops--or your unit keyworker will come by to talk with you concerning the campaign. It is our hope that the 917th will be as generous as always.

Remember \$26 a year (which may be the equivalent of one soda a week to you) can really make a difference in a deserving person's life in an organization that helps folks in their time of need. We look forward to visiting with you.

East Gate stays open

A test was performed during the August and September UTA to determine if it was feasible to open the east gate on the UTA.

The test resulted in the opening of the gate from 6-7 a.m. of every main UTA. This will continue until further notice.

Public Website designers
needed

The 917th Web Masters are currently in the process of designing the 917th public website.

Anyone with experience in web page design please contact Senior Master Sgt. Margaret Mayweather at 456-9859 or Mr. Adam Rolli at 456-7121.

Vanguard Award Sponsored

The Non-Commissioned Officer's Association is looking for nominations for the 2000 Vanguard Award. The award is for a military service member in grades Staff Sgt. - Chief Master Sgt. who have performed a heroic act, on or off duty. The act must be voluntary action, not the result of orders.

Timeframe of the award is January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999. Base-level personnel need to contact their Military Personnel Flight for more information.

Walking & Cancer

Want to cut your risk of cancer? Take a walk.

In the early 1980s, researchers asked 707 healthy nonsmoking retired Hawaiian men of Japanese ancestry about their exercise habits and lifestyles. Over the next 12 years, 41 percent of the men who walked less than a mile a day died. But only 24 percent of the men who walked more than two miles a day died (they averaged 3.7 miles).

The disease that walking was most likely to prevent: cancer.

"These results are consistent with other reports on the relationship between low-intensity exercise and cancers of the colon

and prostate," says Robert Abbott of the University of Virginia School of Medicine in Charlottesville.

The study found no strong link between walking and heart disease, possibly because the disease is less common in men of Japanese ancestry, some of whom still eat traditional Japanese diets.

Adds Abbott: "These results are important because the number of retired men is going to double in size in the next 30 to 40 years.

What to do: *Walk as much as you can - or do other exercise - every day. - Bonnie Liebman*

N. Eng. J. Med. 338:94, 1998

917th Services squadron goes to Europe

By Airman 1st Class Shannon Collins
Wing Public Affairs

Members of the 917th Services Squadron went to separate continents for their annual tour and to backfill Air Force bases.

Five services airmen went to Rhein Mein Air Base, Germany, to backfill the 469th Air Base Group. While there, some of the airmen obtained experience working with contingency lodging.

"The lodging was 4-man rooms that provided a holding place for military in transit to Kosovo," Staff Sgt. Richard Kimbrell, a MWR and Services attendant, said.

"I talked to a few airmen that were glad to be coming home from Kosovo," Staff Sgt. Travis Cothron, a MWR and Services attendant, said.

Cothron and Kimbrell said that when they got there, only 25-40 airmen and other members of the services were coming through. A month ago, service members were working 12-14 hour shifts with close to 100 service members coming through a day.

Eight services airmen went to Misawa Air Base, Japan, in July to backfill the 35th Services Sq. during a Conventional Operational Readiness Inspection exercise.



COURTESY PHOTO

Staff Sgt. Travis Cothron issues equipment to a customer at the fitness center in Rhein Mein Air Base, Germany.

"We performed their regular day-to-day functions, giving us training in the dining facility, fitness center and lodging," said Major Steve Powell, Prime RIBS (Readiness in Base Services) officer-in-charge. "We also had one person assist the base in the wartime mortuary."

The 35th was undermanned by 17 people going into the CORI exercise, so the 917th SS came to the rescue. The airmen worked 12-hour shifts the first week supporting the CORI exercise. They also helped with the self-aid buddy care program.

"This trip gave the supervisors an opportunity to experience firsthand some of the jobs and duties in the different areas of services," Powell said. "Some of them hadn't been in lodging in the last few years and there have been a lot of changes. I've never had the chance to work in the dining facility. Whatever area we were the least experienced in, that's where everybody went to."

Powell had the chance to trade in his paperwork and supervisor role for a role of a cook.

"I cooked five nights, and it was a blast. I was on the night shift, so we cooked breakfast. We had sausage, bacon, French toast and more. I got very good at making biscuits," Powell said with a chuckle. "I made about 400 biscuits every night and assisted in prepping the food for the next day."

"When we deploy somewhere, we cook a Jambalaya dinner before we leave. We left them with recipes and a taste of Louisiana," he said.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. TRAVIS COTHRON

Senior Airman Doniel Kidd prepares meals at the Rhein Mein Air Base Flight Kitchen.



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SHANNON COLLINS
Staff Sgt. Jerry Smith sings and plays the guitar for RED HORSE Family Day during the September UTA.



Two REDHORSE family members have fun on the swings at Cullen Park during the squadron family day.



Techs. Sgt. Ed Bryant, Hector Castenada and Danny Sessums serve food Saturday of the September UTA.

307th RED HORSE Family Day



Senior Airman Richard Ison gives Ethan Wright some water and attention.

Voices: What would be your ideal 917th Wing Family Day?



Senior Airman Phillip Finigan
917th Logistics Support

"My ideal family day would include a picnic, volleyball, outdoor activities, spouse appreciation and entertainment everybody can enjoy."



Staff Sgt. Sonjia Ivy
917th Security Forces

"It would be nice to have a family day with more activities for the kids."



Tech. Sgt. Vincent Williams
917th Civil Engineering

"To me a good family day includes outdoor activities and entertainment for the kids. And to make it bigger and better, top it off with a Texas barbecue."



Tech. Sgt. Tony Rodriguez
917th Medical

"I would like something out of the ordinary, not the basic hamburger and hot dog. Also something a little extra for the kids, maybe have them talk to some of the pilots."

Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter



Tech. Sgt. Curtis Chaffin, Jr.
917th Medical Squadron

Airman of the Quarter



Senior Airman Barney King II
917th Civil Engineering Squadron

Promotions

Lieutenant Colonel

Scott Forrest	Williams Jones
Dean Robinson	Anna Schulte

Senior Master Sergeant

Russell Robinson

Master Sergeant

John Clarke	Elroy Combs
Mcentry Dunbar	Arline Johnson
Edwin Rushing	Davis Williford

Technical Sergeant

Charles Cole	Willie Daniels
Michelle Gathright	Rhonie Johnson
Karen Oakes	Brian Petit
	Robert Thorson

Staff Sergeant

Michelle Becker	Nancy Henning
Mike Hollingsworth	Barney King
William Massey	Kevin McNeill
Robert C. Smith	Robert V. Smith
	Daniel Williams

Senior Airman

Christian Davis	Schulandri Edwards
Aflorn Holmes	Bryant Jopplin
Trolondo Jordan	Robert Locke
Conrad Loyd	Jeremy Tedder

Airman First Class

Jarvis Bradley	Shaun Lawler
John McClelland	Christy Wylie

Airman

Latoya Marshall



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SHANNON COLLINS

Left & Right: Tech. Sgt. Richard Taliaferro, 917th Maintenance Armament, guides fans to seating during the Louisiana Tech. and Texas A&M game on September 4.

Golf Tournament ends in hunger

By Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio
Wing Public Affairs

You can safely go 21 days without eating and under certain conditions you can even go 60. This means no one was in real danger when the food ran out during the annual 917th Commander's Cup Golf Tournament.

The tournament was played in September and was a shotgun start, four person scramble.

Mike Duell, Randy Sorrell, Chuck Winne and Tom Cruzan all from the 47th Fighter Squadron took first place with a score of fifteen under par.

Second place winners were Jason Kennedy, Bob Winkler, Griff Hamilton and Brian Petit of the 917th Logistics Squadron.

Following in third was Conrad Juneau, Ken Potter, Mel Anderson and Randy Sallee, all from the 917th Mission

Support Squadron except Potter from the 917th Maintenance Squadron.

Both second and third place teams finished with a score of eleven under par.

Last place was presented to a group of bomb loaders from the 93rd Bomb Squadron: Wayne Ward, Johnnie Gilbert, Zac Alpough and Randy Doed.

If there had been a first place trophy for having fun it would have belonged to these guys hands down.

This years tournament included 31 teams made up of 917th personnel and their family and friends. This was the largest assembly of teams to ever participate in the Commanders Cup Tournament. Not only were the amount of golf carts



PHOTO BY BELINDA BAZINET

Ron Harsen swings at the ball during the 917th Wing Commander's Cup Golf Tournament.

needed underestimated, we also were a few dozen feet short on sandwiches.

Local area merchants donated numerous door prizes. In fact there were actually more door prizes than participants.

Even though a few left with empty stomachs, no one left empty handed.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SHANNON COLLINS

John Edens pitches the ball as William Floyd looks on at the 917th Commander's Cup Golf Tournament.

SERVICES 917th Military Personnel Flight

Bldg. 6803, Room 140, ext. 9205

Saturday

7 - 11 a.m. - Newcomers in-processing.
11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. - All customer service functions (open during lunch)

Sunday

7 - 8 a.m. - Closed for training.
8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. - All customer service functions (open during lunch)
2:30 - 4 p.m. - Closed for training.

Monday - Friday

7 a.m. - 4 p.m. All service.

NOTE: Customer Service Functions include in & out processing, ID cards, DEERS, DD93s, SGLI, Vehicle Decals, Record Reviews, etc.

Base Billeting

Bldg. 5155, 456-3091/3092

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week (reservations required).

Chaplain

Bldg. 6803, Room 239, 456-9179

Saturday & Sunday - 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Red River Dining Hall

Bldg. 4631

Breakfast - 5:30 - 6:30 a.m.

Lunch MS - 11 - 1

47FS - 11:45 WG - 11

MSS - 11:45 93 BS - 11:15

CES - 12 SPS - 12:15

Shuttle service to the dining hall runs every 20 minutes starting at 11 a.m.. Pick-up points are Bldg. 6850 and Bldg. 6825 (northeast side of Bldg. 6803)

NOTE: You must show ID card, newcomer's letter or DD form 1172.

Family Readiness Center

Bldg. 4713

Saturday & Sunday - 8 - 11 a.m.

Military drivers license

Military drivers license issue is available on the main UTA in bldg. 6825, Rm. 240. Issue hours are as follows:

Saturday & Sunday noon - 2 p.m.

Lodging

For information on official or space A lodging call 1-888-AF-LODGE. Once the automated system answers, key in the first three letters of the base you are trying to reach.

Military Pay

UTA hours of operation:

Sat. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sun. 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

917th Wing Training Schedule

October UTA 2-3

Time	Event	Location	Participants
Saturday			
0600	UTA prayer breakfast	Red River Inn Dining Hall	Everyone welcome
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned unit	Personnel assigned
0700	Wing staff meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	All unit commanders
0700	Short fly physicals	Flight surgeon's office	Flyers
0700-0830	Intro -- all newcomers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227 (auditorium)	All newcomers
0700-1030	Immunizations	Base hospital	
0730-0800	Physicals	Inside base hospital foyer	See phys exam monitor
0730-0930	EO 2000 (Part 1)	NCO Academy theater	307th REDHORSE only
0730-1000	Body fat measurements	Base hospital, Family practice clinic	
0800	Chem. Warfare Refresher	Hanger 7	As scheduled
0900	OJT training mtg.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 123	Unit training monitors
0900-1100	Outlook 98	STARBASE	Scheduled personnel
0930, 1030 & 1330	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17	As scheduled
1000	First sergeants meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	First sergeants
1000	Unit deploy. managers	Bldg. 6803, Rm 227	All UDMs
1200-1430	Immunizations	47th Hanger	All welcome
1300	Chem. Warfare Refresher	Hanger 7	As scheduled
1300	Wing safety training	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	Unit safety reps.
1300-1500	Intro. to Access 97	STARBASE	Scheduled personnel
1400	Commander's Cup	Base golf course	All welcome
1500	Aerobic Fitness Walk	A-10 Hanger	All personnel
1550-1615	Sign-out 1550 -- LS	1600 -- MS	1610 -- CES, MSS, WG
Sunday			
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned Unit	Personnel assigned
0800	Chief's meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	All chief's
0800	Human Relations	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	As needed
0800-1200	EO 2000	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor	As scheduled
0830 & 1230	EOC testing	Bldg. 4314, 3rd floor (by Burger King)	Scheduled by unit
0900	Intranet Web Page	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 123 (T NET)	Personnel assigned
0900	Substance Abuse	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	As needed
0900	Unit advisory council	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	Unit representative
0900	Catholic Mass	Base Chapel 2	Everyone welcome
0900-1100	Intro. to Excel 97	STARBASE	Scheduled personnel
1015-1100	Protestant services	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227 (auditorium)	Everyone welcome
1030	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17	As scheduled
1300	Eyeglass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (opposite main entrance to base hospital)	
1300	Flightline drivers training	Bldg. 6825, Rm. 243	All welcome
1430	SORTS meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	Unit commanders
1515	47th commanders call	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	Assigned personnel
1550-1615	Sign-out 1550 -- LS	1600 -- MS	1610 -- CES, MSS, WG

UTA Schedule

Main

Oct. 2-3
Nov. 6-7
Dec. 4-5
Jan. 8-9
Feb. 5-6
Mar. 4-5
Apr. 1-2
May 6-7
June 3-4
July 8-9

Alternate

Oct. 16-17
Nov. 13-14
Dec. 11-12
Jan. 22-23
Feb. 12-13
Mar. 11-12
Apr. 8-9
May 20-21
June 10-11
July 15-16

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